

## **REMARKS**

In the March 8, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner requires restriction to one of the following Groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-3 and 5 drawn to a monoclonal antibody directed against an epitope within the 30 most N-terminal amino acids of human PIIINP, or an oligopeptide with the sequence derived from the N-terminal peptide is of Col2 domain of PIIINP;
- II. Claims 4-5, drawn to a method of a sandwich immunoassay that detects intact PIIINP using the anti-PIIINP antibodies.

In response to the above restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-3, and 5) for prosecution on the merits in this application. Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent divisional application(s) to protect the invention commensurate with the scope as originally filed.

The Examiner also alleges that Group I contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: wherein the monoclonal antibody against:

- A. the 30 most N-terminal amino acids of human PIIINP; or
- B. the N-terminal peptide of the Col2 domain.

In response to the above species election, Applicants elect, with traverse, species A, the 30 most N-terminal amino acids of human PIIINP of Group I as designated by the Examiner for continued prosecution on the merits.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However, if there is any such fee due, please charge any such fee to deposit account No. 50-0781.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicants at (914) 524-2684.

Respectfully submitted,

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